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NOTES AND LITERATURE

BIOLOGY

Beebe's Log of the Sun.¹—Merely to turn over the pages of this beautiful book dispels all desire for captious criticism. The publishers have done everything to present it to the public in the best shape while the fifty-two full page plates in color by Walter King Stone and the numerous text figures from photographs and from wash and charcoal drawings make the work a delight unto the eye. Each of the fifty-two weeks of the year has its chapter; in some cases chosen with a full appreciation of the fitness of things, in others placed in position because one week would do as well as another. Some of these chapters have previously appeared, without illustration, in other places, while others were prepared expressly for this volume. Naturally the birds attract the most attention, with the mammals a close second, but other chapters deal with reptiles, fishes and insects, while the invertebrates of the sea are not neglected and even those marvels of crystallography, the snow flakes, have their allotted space.

The text itself is written in an easy, graceful manner with a full appreciation of the wonders of nature and with the most sympathetic spirit. Here and there, perhaps, a statement is exaggerated or, may be, a slight mistake is made but these are but slight blemishes and they shall not be detailed here. Read the book, look upon the living world about you — sea, shore — plain or forest — with the open eyes of the author and you will see the marvels he has seen and a myriad others of which he tells you nothing.

Laloy's Parasitism and Mutualism.—Dr. Laloy devotes an introductory chapter of his recent work² to a consideration of the various reciprocal relations between living things of which series parasitism and mutualism are the opposite extremes. Following this the first part deals with parasitism under seven chapter headings: generalities,

¹The Log of the Sun; a chronicle of Nature's Year. By C. William Beebe. New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1906, pp. xii + 345, \$6.00.

²Parasitisme et Mutualisme dans la Nature, par le Dr. L. Laloy, bibliothécaire de l'Académie de Médecine. Préface de M. A. Giard, professeur à la Sorbonne. 1 vol. Bibliothèque Scientifique internationale; 82 text figures. 6 fr. Félix Alcan, éditeur, Paris 1906.

plant parasitism, plants parasitic on animals, animals parasitic on plants, animal parasitism, the rôle of parasites in pathology, and finally parasitism in the evolution of species. This last chapter presents in striking fashion an opinion previously advanced by this author regarding embryonic and sexual parasitism.

In the second part, devoted to mutualism, are grouped under separate chapters discussions of social life among plants, mutualism between plants and animals, social life among animals, and mimicry. Under these headings are discussed many interesting questions of an unusual sort. The author has selected instances of an illustrative type and presents them clearly and attractively.

The scope of the work is uncommonly large, embracing as it does both plants and animals and scant 300 pages are narrow limits in which to present such discussions in a form to escape criticism. To a zoologist it appears as if on the whole too great space had been given to the plant side and yet this may be distorted perspective on the part of the reviewer. The figures deal almost exclusively with plants and insects, with the former largely in the majority.

In many respects the work hardly represents present knowledge on the subjects discussed. Thus, in speaking of the hookworm, to which the author devotes a considerable section, the statements that this parasite sucks blood is perhaps excusable, though in 1903 Looss showed it to be incorrect, and this work has been much commented upon and quoted, as well as confirmed, since then. However to outline the life history with the larva encysted in a resistant envelope and infection taking place by the mouth is astonishing in view of the experimentation and discussion in this field for the past three years or more. Other statements are open to the criticism at least of serious exaggeration, such as that Yellow Fever caused one hundred deaths per annum in Havana under Spanish rule, or that in the *Tæniæ* one finds only internal autofecundation.

On the other hand the accounts of malarial organisms, of yellow fever and of trypanosomes are as good as could be given in the space at command. In the latter cases use was made of the admirable work of Blanchard, Laveran and Mesnil, while in the former the authority cited was not so trustworthy. In fact the author does not seem to know the literature of his subject thoroughly. He cites almost alone the French authors and does not differentiate clearly their work. Where his selection is happy the text is admirable, but at times the choice of an authority is less fortunate and the text suffers.

Some lack of knowledge shows itself also in the use of such long

since abandoned names as *Tania cucumerina* and *Distomum hepaticum*. Better figures could have been found almost anywhere than those he gives of *Tania solium* and tapeworm embryos; that of *Cæerurus cerebialis* is clearly wrong and the cut of a liver fluke is little more than a blotch of ink. On the other hand many of the botanical illustrations are excellent, and none are really poor. Neither authority nor credit is given for any figure, though many, if not most of them, are copied from other authors.

Despite these criticisms and an evident lack of control of his field in some places, Dr. Laloy has produced an usable work. The material brought together here is scattered widely and both unknown and inaccessible save to the specialist. The order is logical, the presentation clear and the author manifests the characteristic French ability to secure and hold the attention and interest of his readers.

GEOLOGY

Relative Geological Importance of Continental, Littoral, and Marine Sedimentation. — Professor Joseph Barrell has given us¹ a critical discussion of the conditions under which continental, littoral, and marine sedimentation take place, the classification of the three types of deposits, the evidence upon which they may be discriminated, and the probable areal and vertical extent of the deposits of each class now found in the geological column. It is shown that the littoral zone is of exceedingly small extent, its deposits less likely to be preserved than the deposits of the other two zones, and that unless a given formation is undoubtedly of littoral origin it is more likely to be either marine or continental. The regions of continental sedimentation are shown to be far more extensive than generally believed, the chances for the preservation of continental deposits often very good, and that therefore a much greater proportion of ancient sediments is likely to be found of continental origin than is generally conceded. The last part of the essay deals with the origin and preservation of mud cracks, and their value as a criterion of continental rather than of littoral sedimentation. It is shown that contrary to the usual interpretation, mud cracks generally furnish one of the surest

¹ Journal of Geology, **14**, pp. 316–356, 430–457, 524–568, 1906.